

LONDON- WEST MIDLANDS ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

Volume 5 | Technical Appendices

CFA20 | Curdworth to Middleton
Baseline report (CH-001-020)
Cultural heritage

November 2013

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Department
for Transport

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Appendix CH-001-020

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1 Introduction

1.1 Structure of the cultural heritage appendices

1.1.1 The cultural heritage appendices for the Curdworth to Middleton CFA comprise:

- baseline reports (this appendix);
- a gazetteer of heritage assets (Appendix CH-002-020);
- impact assessment tables (Appendix CH-003-020); and
- survey reports (Appendix CH-004-020).

1.1.2 Maps referred to throughout the cultural heritage appendices are contained in the Volume 5 cultural heritage map book.

1.2 Content and scope

1.2.1 This baseline provides the evidence base against which the assessment of assets that may be affected by the Proposed Scheme can be determined. It contains information about known and potential heritage assets from a variety of sources and presents a chronological description and discussion of the development of the study area, placing assets within their historical and archaeological context.

1.2.2 The baseline is structured, as with other CFAs, as follows:

- Section 1 of the document provides introductory material relating to the scope of the assessment, study area and key data sources;
- Section 2 provides background info on geology and topography;
- Section 3 provides a chronological description of the archaeological and historical development of the area;
- Section 4 provides an overview of the built heritage resource;
- Section 5 relates to a map regression;
- Section 6 provides a description of the historic landscape, including parks, gardens and important hedgerows;
- Section 7 describes the archaeological character of the route. This is closely related to Appendix CH-003-019;
- Section 8 provides an overview of archaeological understanding and potential; and
- Section 9 provides information sources.

1.3 Study Area

1.3.1 The Curdworth to Middleton Community Forum Area (CFA) lies within North Warwickshire District and comprises parts of the civil parishes of Curdworth, Lea Marston, Nether Whitacre, Over Whitacre, Wishaw, Middleton and Kingsbury.

- 1.3.2 All non-designated and designated assets within the land potentially required for construction and within 500m of it have been detailed in this baseline assessment. In addition, designated heritage assets have been examined up to 2km either side of the land potentially required for construction.
- 1.3.3 All identified assets are listed in Volume 5 map books and shown on Maps CH-01-114b to CH-01-116, CH-02-109 and CH-02-110 in the Volume 5 cultural heritage map book.

1.4 Data Sources

- 1.4.1 Sources examined as part of this baseline assessment include published secondary sources, cartographic sources, Historic Environment Record data for non-designated heritage assets and English Heritage National Heritage List data for designated assets. A full list of published sources can be found in Section 9 of this appendix.

1.5 Surveys Undertaken

- 1.5.1 The following surveys were undertaken as part of the EIA process:
- LiDAR survey of the majority of the Proposed Scheme and land around it (see Appendix CH-004-020)
 - Hyperspectral survey of the majority of the Proposed Scheme and land around it (see Appendix CH-004-020)
 - A programme of non-intrusive surveys including geophysical prospection (see Appendix CH-004-020)
 - Site reconnaissance field inspections to review the setting of historic assets and the character and form of the historic landscape.

2 Geology, topography and landform

- 2.1.1 The underlying bedrock geology of the Study Area is uniformly Triassic Mercian Mudstone Group – Mudstone. However, the superficial geology of the Study Area is much more varied being derived from Quaternary alluvial and river terrace deposits associated with the River Tame. Five bands of Flandrian alluvial deposits extend across the Study Area in a west-east direction. These deposits demarcate the historical extent of the floodplain associated with the River Tame, which flows across the south of the Study Area, curving northwards along the east side of the Study Area, and its tributaries. The geology along the River Tame and its tributaries is characterised by Quaternary Sand and Gravel River Terrace Deposits which form the dominant group of sediments within the Study Area¹.
- 2.1.2 The alluvial deposits associated with the River Tame and its tributaries have the potential to mask any archaeological assets and to mask and preserve palaeo-environmental deposits.
- 2.1.3 Text on depth of deposits gained from borehole data is to follow.
- 2.1.4 The only other superficial deposits found in the Study Area are located to the north of the River Tame, within the southern half of the Study Area. To the north of Curdworth a large area of Devensian glaciolacustrine sands and silts is bordered by contemporary glaciofluvial sands and gravels and Head deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel.
- 2.1.5 The topography of the Study Area is generally low lying and flat, with elevations between 70m and 80m above Ordnance Datum (OD), which reflects the geomorphology of the wide river valley of the River Tame and its tributaries. A small area of higher ground, reaching approximately 100m above OD is located to the north of Curdworth, coinciding with the Devensian Glacial deposits. Three small areas of Head deposits lie on the north, east and south slopes of this hill.
- 2.1.6 Areas of artificial ground (as defined by the British Geological Survey) are present in several locations within the Study Area. These areas may include made ground, former quarries, disturbed ground and infilled areas together with landscaped grounds. Larger areas of artificial ground are likely to indicate the disturbance of any archaeological deposits. The most extensive and significant areas of artificial ground, relating to past development and past mineral extraction are present at the following locations:
- Hams Hall distribution centre at the south of the Study Area;
 - Between the canal and the M42 east of Cuttle Mill Farm;
 - South of Dunton Hall within an area of industrial recycling; and
 - Extensive areas of gravel extraction to the south, east and west of Middleton Hall in the north of the Study Area.

¹ <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>.

3 Archaeological and historical background

3.1 Early prehistory

Palaeolithic 500,000-10,000BC

- 3.1.1 Evidence for activity in the Palaeolithic period in the Study Area is entirely lacking. The West Midlands has produced far less evidence for activity and occupation during the Palaeolithic than other areas in southern and eastern England².
- 3.1.2 The majority of prehistoric tools comprised worked flint. However in the absence of any significant outcrops of flint within the Study Area and the West Midlands, tools were made of poorer quality drift flint and other local materials such as local 'Bunter' quartzite pebbles originating in the Triassic Kidderminster Conglomerate found to the north and west of Birmingham^{3, 4}. Much of the evidence for Palaeolithic occupation and activity comes from cave sites⁵, examples of which are not found within the Study Area.
- 3.1.3 Artefacts which have been found in the West Midlands are generally recovered from river deposits such as the River Avon and River Severn further south of the Study Area. Major rivers in existence during these periods, which are no longer present, included the Mathon to the west of Worcester and the Bytham to the east of Coventry. The gravel terraces associated with these rivers have produced significant Palaeolithic remains although none within the Study Area⁶. The environment at that time would have been a harsh one, located at the northern limit of Lower Palaeolithic settlement area. Populations would have relied on constant access to the water and food sources in river valleys⁷. Few artefacts have been retrieved from the gravel terraces of the River Tame.
- 3.1.4 Within the Study Area is the river valley and terraces to the west of the River Tame, which may have been a focus for activity during the Palaeolithic period. Due to the changing course of the river and post-depositional processes within river valleys, evidence of any activity may only survive at significant depth below ground level. A Lower Palaeolithic hand axe is recorded to have been discovered near Church Lane, Middleton, although the exact location is uncertain and can be considered to be indicative of more extensive activity.

Mesolithic 8,500-4,000BC

- 3.1.5 Mesolithic flints have been recovered through fieldwalking over cultivated fields around Middleton and, as well as Shenstone and Wishaw, to the northwest and southwest of the Study Area respectively. Surface finds have also been recovered

² Garwood, P. (2011), The earlier prehistory of the west midlands. In: S. Watt, ed., *The Archaeology of the west midlands: a framework for research*. Oxbow Books: Oxford, pp. 9-99.

³ Garwood 2011, 15.

⁴ Lang, A. and Buteux, S. (2007), Lost but not forgotten: the Lower and Middle Palaeolithic occupation of the West Midlands. In: P. Garwood, ed., *The Undiscovered Country: the earlier prehistory of the West Midlands*. Oxbow Books: Oxford, pp. 6-22.

⁵ Myers, A. (2007), The Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic archaeology of the West Midlands. In: P. Garwood, ed., *The Undiscovered Country: the earlier prehistory of the West Midlands*. Oxbow Books: Oxford, pp. 23-38.

⁶ Lang and Buteux 2007, 7.

⁷ Ibid. 15-16.

from Wishaw Church, Over Green, Grounds Farm, Lower Green and Wishaw Hall Farm 1-2km west of the Study Area⁸. This programme of field walking, which targeted a range of different soil types, recovered flints from areas with clay soils as well as from sand and gravel areas. Areas with free-drained soils are often presumed to have been favoured over heavier clay soils. However, the results from this field walking project indicated that soil types were not the only consideration for Mesolithic populations⁹. The Study Area is largely dominated by sand and gravel deposits, with an area of clay and silt at the southern end surrounding Dunton Hall. This area is one of the highest points in the landscape of the Study Area at approximately 95m above ordnance datum and may have been a suitable location for Mesolithic activity.

- 3.1.6 Over 1500 flints dated to the 6th millennium BC were recovered from Wishaw Hall Farm during work carried out in advance of the M6 Toll. The artefacts were located on a south-facing slope with clay soils, overlooking low ground and the course of a stream and probably represent a temporary camp¹⁰ 1km to the west of the Study Area. Mesolithic camps are generally
- 3.1.7 located on higher ground near water sources, such as river valley terraces¹¹. The location of the Study Area along the Tame Valley, with isolated topographic plateaus, and the prevalence of Mesolithic finds within the wider landscape indicates the potential for Mesolithic remains to be encountered within the Study Area.
- 3.1.8 No structural or faunal evidence dating to this period have been recovered; however recovery of such material of this date is rare across the country. If Mesolithic material is found it would likely be further lithic scatters, the analysis of which could provide information relating to tool use, behaviour and regionality¹².

Neolithic 4,000-2,400BC

- 3.1.9 The Neolithic period is widely defined by the introduction of farming to Britain but hunting, gathering and foraging remained important in the economy and society at the time^{13, 14, 15, 16}. Early Neolithic sites, as with previous periods, are lacking within the Study Area. Remains of features such as settlement enclosures, funerary monuments and house sites are rare within the West Midlands, with no examples within the Study Area. However, environmental material from sites in the West Midlands indicate fewer woodland species in pollen samples and an increase in weed species during the 4th millennium BC, indicating some degree of land clearance, possibly for agricultural purposes¹⁷.
- 3.1.10 Whilst it is clear that the wider landscape was utilised during this time, and in preceding period, where and how communities lived has yet to be fully understood.

⁸ Hodder, M. (1992), The Development of the North Warwickshire Landscape: settlement and land use in the parishes of Wishaw and Middleton. *Transactions of the Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeological Society*, 97, pp. 41-56.

⁹ Myers 2007, 31.

¹⁰ Powell, A.B., Booth, P., Fitzpatrick, A.P. and Crockett, A.D. (2008), *The Archaeology of the M6 Toll, 2000-2003*. Oxford-Wessex Monograph 2. Oxford Wessex Archaeology: Oxford and Salisbury.

¹¹ Myers 2007, 31.

¹² Garwood 2011, 29.

¹³ Thomas, J.S. (1993), Discourse, totalisation and 'the Neolithic'. In: C. Tilley, ed., *Interpretive Archaeology*, 357-194. Berg: London.

¹⁴ Thomas, J.S. (1999), *Understanding the Neolithic*. Routledge: London.

¹⁵ Thomas, J. (2003), Thoughts on the 'repacked' Neolithic revolution. *Antiquity* 77, pp. 67-74.

¹⁶ Whittle, A. (1996), *Europe in the Neolithic: The Creation of New Worlds* (Cambridge World Archaeology). Cambridge University Press: Cambridge.

¹⁷ Garwood 2011, 35.

The Study Area, with its free-draining soils and proximity to the River Tame, would have provided many suitable locations for settlement and exploitation of the natural landscape, although little evidence has been found to date. The current character of the Study Area, being largely occupied by arable land with significant modern infrastructure and developments at the southern end, would have resulted in the partial destruction of archaeological remains, with complete destruction in areas of significant previous disturbance.

- 3.1.11 The later Neolithic period is characterised by new forms of material culture (for example pottery and worked flint tools) and funerary and ceremonial monuments. Evidence of settlement and activity for this period within the Study Area and wider landscape is very limited, with much evidence found around the outskirts of the West Midlands¹⁸. The ceremonial landscape at Catholme and Whitemoor Haye, 16km north of the Study Area, is the closest example of identified Middle/Late Neolithic ceremonial activity but is smaller than similar features found in other areas outside the West Midlands¹⁹. This site consists of a concentration of henges, mini-henges, round barrows and cursus monuments, centred on the confluence of the Rivers Trent, Tame and Mease²⁰. Such monuments have not been discovered within the Study Area. Apart from a possible Neolithic axe recovered from Brook Farm, north of Gallows Brook, no other Neolithic evidence has been found within the Study Area.

3.2 Later prehistory

Bronze Age 2,400- 700BC

- 3.2.1 The Bronze Age saw the introduction of metal working to Britain in the 3rd millennium BC. Evidence for this period, although more frequent than the preceding periods, is still quite rare within the Study Area and surrounding landscape. The emergence of groups of round barrows during the Early Bronze Age marks a distinct change from the type of ceremonial monuments and landscapes constructed during the Late Neolithic in Britain²¹. Large numbers of round barrows and ring ditches, that either survive as partial earthworks or below-ground remains identified from aerial photography, have been identified in the West Midlands. Concentrations of barrows are noted within the Tame Valley, with a notable concentration at the Trent/Tame confluence 16km north of the Study Area. However only two possible ring ditches have been identified within the Study Area (CWM006; CWM 116) with a further possible site since removed by quarrying. The scarcity of round barrows within the farmland of the CFA may be a result of millennia of cultivation which have gradually removed all traces, with extensive damage from modern agricultural practices during the 20th century.
- 3.2.2 There is also very little evidence for settlement sites of this period in the region. Burnt mounds form the most frequent evidence for the Mid-Late Bronze Age, most being located on low lying land close to water sources. Many have been interpreted as cooking sites although their function is uncertain and other interpretations include

¹⁸ Garwood 2011, 48.

¹⁹ Ibid. 54-56.

²⁰ Coates, G. (2002), *A Prehistoric and Romano-British Landscape: excavations at Whitemoor Haye Quarry, Staffordshire, 1997-1999*. BAR British series 340: Oxford.

²¹ Garwood 2011, 64.

their use as sweat lodges or saunas. The presence of burnt mounds may well indicate a settlement in close proximity. A burnt mound has been excavated next to Langley Brook (2.5km southwest of Middleton) prior to the construction of the M6 Toll, and dated by radiocarbon to the Early Bronze Age²².

- 3.2.3 A Middle Bronze Age palstave was found at Middleton Hall while a possible Bronze Age burnt mound was also recorded south of the Hall in the early 20th century but has since been removed by road improvements within the hall grounds (CWMo42). The small concentration of Bronze Age material and sites surrounding Middleton Hall indicate a high potential for that area to produce further evidence of activity dating to this period. This area is low lying with a number of water sources in close by and the landscape rises gently towards the northwest and west with good agricultural land in the area.
- 3.2.4 Potential Late Bronze Age or Iron Age field systems have also been recorded, at Middleton Hall (CWMo44) and at Lower Farm, Kingsbury (CWMo34). If these fields systems do belong to the Bronze Age period, they represent the first example of a divided agricultural landscape within the Study Area.

Iron Age 700BC-AD43

- 3.2.5 Iron Age settlement and enclosures have been recorded beyond the Study Area to the north²³ and pit alignments have been recorded in the broader region which may date to the Late Bronze Age or Iron Age²⁴.
- 3.2.6 The Iron Age landscape of the Study Area and surrounding environment is one of more intensive farming than the previous periods, as well as more visible settlements sites, many of which were identified from aerial photography and some of which were excavated during the construction of the M6 Toll to the west of the Study Area. This increase in evidence can be linked to an increase in population at this time, which prompted new forest clearance for pasture and cultivation and the development of boundary systems²⁵. An example is at Wishaw Hall Farm, 1km to the west of the Study Area²⁶, where a pit alignment and segmented ditch dated to the Middle Iron Age. Pit alignments have been recorded in the Study Area to the north of Lea Marston which have been at least partly removed by previous mineral extraction (CWM116).
- 3.2.7 While evidence for the disposal of the dead was frequent in the Early Bronze Age, little evidence has been found for Iron Age mortuary practices within the West Midlands, with no evidence recovered from the Study Area.
- 3.2.8 Excavations during the construction of the M6 Toll to the west of the Study Area have shown Iron Age settlements, of varying forms, are to be found at a range of topographical locations²⁷. Sites excavated included rectilinear enclosures with circular buildings, a site straddling either side of a brook, as well as unenclosed settlements²⁸.

²² Powell et al. 2008, 355.

²³ Powell et al. 2008.

²⁴ Coates 2002.

²⁵ Alexander, M. Palmer, S. and Chadd, L. (2008), *Archaeological Resource Assessment of the Aggregates Producing Areas of Warwickshire and Solihull*. English Heritage Project Number 4681. Warwickshire County Council: Warwick.

²⁶ Powell et al 2008, 359-361.

²⁷ Powell et al 2008, 510.

²⁸ Ibid. 511.

The Study Area contains a number of brooks and streams, with Langley Brook and Gallows Brook at the north, and the River Tame at the very southern end of the Study Area. Other Iron Age features excavated outside of the Study Area include pit alignments which represent the remains of landscape divisions employed during this time²⁹. While many Iron Age sites have been identified through aerial photography on river gravels, the excavation of two sites from wetland and Red Marl contexts prior to the construction of the M6 Toll show that settlement was occurring in other locations not traditionally associated with occupation at this time³⁰. The Study Area largely occupies sand and gravels of the River Tame terraces, with an area of clay and silt at the southern end. Although river gravels often provide optimum conditions for the identification of cropmark enclosures few examples have been found within the Study Area and the nature and extent of Iron Age occupation and activity within the area is little understood.

- 3.2.9 An Iron Age torch was found north of Middleton Hall in the 1960s. It was not found in association with any other features but it does indicate some level of activity in that area at that time. Aerial photography has identified a number of archaeological features in the area (including CWM001; CWM006 and CWM010); however, none can be said to certainly be of Iron Age date.
- 3.2.10 Iron Age activity within the Study Area is, as with the preceding periods, little understood. The only possible assets dating to this period are two field systems of potential Late Bronze Age or Iron Age date (CWM034; CWM044). Iron Age settlements have been identified to the north, south and west of the Study Area, at the A5, Coleshill and M6 Toll respectively. These have all resulted from excavations in advance of developments, which suggests the potential for encountering further remains of this period, particularly as the geology and topography would have been widely suitable for settlement.

3.3 Romano-British

AD43-410

- 3.3.1 The Roman army is thought to have reached the Study Area and surrounding landscape by AD 48, with the earliest military activity at Wall, a marching camp and later a town, dating from AD 40 and located 10km northwest of the Study Area³¹. The vexillation fortress was probably established in the early 50s and abandoned at the end of that decade. The last fort was abandoned in the late 2nd century, by which time the civilian settlement was developing³². The Study Area lies within the hinterland of Wall, and is thought to have been outside of the direct control of the town. Archaeological remains in the area have revealed direct links between Iron Age and Romano-British settlements³³. The landscape surrounding the Study Area had a number of Roman forts and settlements as well as Wall, including Mancetter in north Warwickshire, Metchley, Greensforge and Rocester. These places were linked by

²⁹ Ibid. 512.

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ Powell et al 2008, 516.

³² Ibid.

³³ Ibid. 518.

major roads, including Watling Street³⁴, which runs east to west, 5km north of the Study Area.

- 3.3.2 At Coleshill, on the gravel terrace of the River Cole, a Romano-British site was discovered at Grimstock Hill, 500m south of the Study Area. A major temple complex, one of the only of its kind in Warwickshire, was excavated in the 1980s and consisted of a large stone-built temple of typical Romano-Celtic plan accompanied by a smaller, simple square shrine and a further semi-circular shrine all within a walled enclosure³⁵. A bath house was 30m to the south of the enclosure, with a settlement also recorded to the south of this³⁶. Despite excavations at this site, little is known about the character and extent of the Romano-British settlement here. The site is also important for evidence for the continuation of middle Iron Age pottery fabrics and forms through to the early Romano-British period³⁷.
- 3.3.3 Other evidence for the Romano-British occupation of the landscape surrounding the Study Area comes from excavations at Wishaw Hall Farm, 1km to the west of the Study Area. Here an enclosure, trackway and parts of a field system were excavated which superseded an Iron Age boundary system³⁸.
- 3.3.4 In comparison to the south of England there is a general shortage of evidence for Roman settlement, structure and artefact types in the West Midlands³⁹, with no evidence for Roman villas in the Study Area or the surrounding landscape⁴⁰. The area appears to be associated with a north-western tradition of low level usage of artefacts, which contrasts with areas to the south-east such as the Avon valley.
- 3.3.5 The decline of activity in the 3rd century and the eventual withdrawal of the Romans in the 4th century brought with it changes to the Romano-British settlements. No sites of Romano-British date have been found within the Study Area; however, activity is alluded to by the presence of a number of stray finds and artefact scatters found throughout the Study Area. Pottery sherds have been located directly to the east of the M6 Toll at Curdworth and at Middleton, while a copper alloy mount, coin and three fibulae were also recorded at Middleton. While no settlement sites are known within the Study Area it is likely that at least part of the Study Area was used for agricultural purposes during the Romano-British period, owing to the quality of the soil in the area, the proximity to the River Tame and other water sources, the presence of a Roman settlement to the south at Coleshill and Watling Street Roman road to the north of the Study Area.
- 3.3.6 There are no known archaeological assets of Romano-British date within the Study Area, with only some stray finds recorded. Evidence from the surrounding landscape (excavations in advance of the M6 Toll to the west, the A5 to the north and excavated sites at Coleshill to the south) indicate that occupation and activity was widespread in the broader region during the Romano-British period. While villa sites are rare within

³⁴ Ibid. 516.

³⁵ Booth, P. (1996), Warwickshire in the Roman period: a review of recent work. *Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeological Society* 100, 25-58.

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ Powell et al 2008, 362-363.

³⁹ Esmonde Cleary, S. (2011), The Romano-British period: an assessment. In: S. Watt, ed., *The Archaeology of the west midlands: a framework for research*. Oxbow Books: Oxford, pp. 127-147.

⁴⁰ Powell et al 2008, 521.

Warwickshire, rural agricultural settlements are known and it is unlikely that the Study Area did not experience some activity during this time.

3.4 Early medieval

AD 410-1066

- 3.4.1 The early medieval period is one of the least visible periods archaeologically, with no physical evidence dating to the Anglo-Saxon period known from the Study Area. The nearest evidence comes from Catholme⁴¹, 16km north northeast of the Study Area. Here settlement consisted of several phases of buildings including individual farmhouses and their associated ancillary buildings which were established in the mid to late Anglo-Saxon period but went out of use between the 9th and 13th centuries⁴². Tamworth, 4km northeast of the Study Area, was an important Mercian royal vill by the 8th century⁴³, and the heartland of the Tomsaete, the settlers of the Tame valley, at this time⁴⁴. Settlement is also known at Lichfield, 10km north west of the Proposed Scheme, which was a diocesan centre by the 8th century⁴⁵. Settlement tended to be fluid, with multiple and changing foci within an estate⁴⁶, and the early medieval landscape of the Study Area being one of regenerated woodland with a dispersed settlement pattern. This settlement pattern is in contrast to that of Feldon area of Warwickshire to the south, which was dominated by nucleated settlements within open field systems at this time⁴⁷. Excavations in advance of the M6 Toll to the west of the Study Area recovered a small number of pottery sherds dating to this period but no substantial evidence of Anglo-Saxon settlement⁴⁸.
- 3.4.2 Curdworth, Wishaw and Middleton were all listed in the Domesday Book of 1086 indicating there may have been earlier settlements in these areas, although no evidence exists for this and no pre-conquest charters are known from the area. The place name Curdworth comes from the Saxon personal name 'Creoda' and means 'Creoda's enclosure', while the meaning of Wishaw is uncertain, it may mean either 'wood by the bend' or 'willow-tree wood'⁴⁹. The name Middleton also has Saxon origins, from 'middle' meaning middle and 'tūn' meaning enclosure or farmstead⁵⁰.
- 3.4.3 No archaeological assets dating to this period are known from the Study Area and evidence dating from this period is extremely rare throughout the country. The likely settlement pattern during this time was dispersed settlements with enclosed crofts situated within a largely wooded landscape. A mixed use economy incorporating arable, pasture and woodland was the norm. Centuries of cultivation since this time would have removed traces of early medieval agricultural evidence. Similarly medieval and post-medieval settlements may have obscured or removed earlier settlements.

⁴¹ Losco-Bradley, S. and Kinsley, G. (2002), *Catholme: an Anglo-Saxon settlement on the Trent gravels in Staffordshire*. University of Nottingham: Nottingham.

⁴² Hooke, D. (2011), The post-Roman and the early medieval periods in the west midlands: a potential archaeological agenda. In: S. Watt, ed., *The Archaeology of the west midlands: a framework for research*. Oxbow Books: Oxford, pp. 149-172.

⁴³ Ibid. 157.

⁴⁴ Alexander, Palmer and Chadd 2008, 63.

⁴⁵ Ibid. 161.

⁴⁶ Taylor, C. (1983), *Village and Farmstead: A History of Rural Settlement in England*. G. Philip: London.

⁴⁷ Hooke, D. (1996), Reconstructing Anglo-Saxon landscapes in Warwickshire. *Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeological Society Transactions*, 100, pp.99-116.

⁴⁸ Powell et al. 2008, 546.

⁴⁹ www.nottingham.ac.uk/ins.

⁵⁰ Ibid.

Anglo-Saxon burials are one of the dominant site types from this period, often providing information on the populations, their society or their economy during this period, but none are known from the Study Area.

3.5 Medieval

AD1066-1540

- 3.5.1 Considerable changes took place within and surrounding the Study Area during the medieval period, including the development of a new political and social order, the expansion of settlement, growing commercialisation and expansion and developments within the institution of the Church⁵¹. Population increased centuries, up to as 933% between the 12th and 14th during this time⁵². However the lack of excavation of medieval sites means that there is little information on building types at rural settlements.
- 3.5.2 The Study Area would most likely have been wooded during the medieval period, with dispersed settlement throughout⁵³. This reflects the pattern within Warwickshire during the medieval period, with the formation of villages in the south and east and of hamlets and dispersed settlements in the north and west⁵⁴. The southern end of the Study Area is within the Forest of Arden which, during the medieval period, was a region of active colonisation as woodland and waste was assarted and broken up for farming⁵⁵. Characteristics of settlements within and surrounding the Study Area included irregular field systems with enclosed crofts, rather than large sub-divided open fields. Mixed land use was the norm, with populations exploiting woodland, heath and arable land⁵⁶.
- 3.5.3 The remains of medieval settlement are likely to be encountered at are likely at Curdworth, Lea Marston and Middleton, all of which are mentioned in Domesday Book of 1086 (CWM005; CWM011; CWM048) and contain a church with medieval fabric (CWM054; CWM057; CWM103).
- 3.5.4 Within the Study Area there are dispersed areas of ridge and furrow (CWM002; CWM004; CWM009; CWM017; CWM018; CWM020; CWM025; CWM028; CWM029; CWM031; CWM033; CWM036; CWM038; CWM049; CWM051; CWM099; CWM124) which, although not definitively dated to the medieval period, may reflect the mixed use economy of the society of the time, with the large area of current arable land possibly forested during this time.
- 3.5.5 Three medieval moated sites have been recorded within the Study Area, at Curdworth Hall Farm, North wood and Middleton Hall, with a further possible moated site at Blackgreaves Farm (CWM007; CWM016; CWM027; CWM046). A former moated site (now incorporated into a modern hotel complex) has been recorded at the site of Moxhull Hall, now the Belfry (CWM123). Moated sites were a major feature of the

⁵¹ Hunt, J. (2011), The Medieval Period. In: S. Watt, ed., *The Archaeology of the west midlands: a framework for research*. Oxbow Books: Oxford, pp. 173-209.

⁵² Powell et al 2008, 549.

⁵³ Ibid., 546.

⁵⁴ Dyer, C. (1996), Rural settlements in medieval Warwickshire. *Transactions of the Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeological Society*, 100, pp. 117-132.

⁵⁵ Hooke 1996, 109.

⁵⁶ Dyer 1996, 121.

medieval landscape of the Arden. Of the 278 moated sites known from Warwickshire, 209 are located in the Arden⁵⁷. Some moated sites, such as that at Coleshill just south the Study Area, were features of status and established within a park. Of the moated sites within the Study Area, only that at Middleton (CWMo46) is located within a medieval park, with the others appearing to have been part of the colonising of new land. The scheduled moated site 270m south east of Middleton Farm at North Wood (CWMo27) exploited newly assarted land and was associated with fish ponds to the south (CWMo23). A possible deserted medieval village is known at Dunton Island, to the east of Curdworth (CWMo14). It was identified from aerial photographs and may be the remains of a hamlet.

- 3.5.6 Another feature of the medieval landscape of the Study Area was parkland, with parks known at Middleton (CWMo99) and Moxhull (CWMo79; CWM122; CWM123). Emparking began in England after the Norman Conquest, with most principal Royal parks created by 1200, and those of larger landowners between 1200 and 1350⁵⁸. Early parks were often created on unimproved land on the edges of manors. However, late parks (those created after 1350) have been found to have been created on previously cultivated land⁵⁹, such as that at Middleton⁶⁰.
- 3.5.7 The location of the Study Area, between the medieval centres of Lichfield and Tamworth, close to the Staffordshire/Warwickshire border, may have influenced the amount of medieval activity in the area, including the possibility of a pottery production centre⁶¹. Watling Street would also have played a part in medieval trade and activity between these two centres. The division between agriculture and industry was sharp, with most crafts located at scattered sites, most probably in or near woodland settings⁶². Although much of the Study Area may have been wooded during the medieval period, no evidence for medieval industry or production has been definitively identified within the area and as with the preceding periods, the material culture of the medieval period is significantly under represented within the Study Area and the surrounding landscape.
- 3.5.8 In 1086 the manor of Curdworth was held by Turchil of Warwick, one of the few English noblemen to survive the Norman Conquest⁶³. It had previously been held by Wulfwin and was associated with the Arden family throughout much of the medieval period, being one of their principal manors. In 1086 Curdworth was assessed at four hides, valued at 50 shillings,. In 1086 the manor of Wishaw was held by Orderic, it was assessed at two hides with land for two ploughs and was valued at 10 shillings and consisted of y hamlets and dispersed settlements during this period.
- 3.5.9 Middleton Hall was continuously occupied from the medieval period until 1966. The hall is surrounded by a moat which leads from a large pool⁶⁴. At the time of the Domesday Survey Hugh de Grentemaisnil held four hides at Middleton and a priest

⁵⁷ Dyer 1996, 122.

⁵⁸ Hodder, M. (1988a), Medieval parks in Drayton Bassett, Shenstone and Weeford (Staffordshire). *Transactions of the South Staffordshire Archaeological Society*, 30, pp. 39-52.

⁵⁹ Ibid.

⁶⁰ Hodder 1992.

⁶¹ Powell et al 2008, 548.

⁶² Hunt 2011, 190.

⁶³ Hunt, J. (1992), An early manorial enclosure at Curdworth, Warwickshire and its affinities. *Warwickshire History* 8(3).

⁶⁴ Middleton Hall Study Group, Middleton Hall Trust Project (Warwickshire Archive Ref: B.Mid.Mid. (P)).

and mill were recorded in the village⁶⁵. The hall was the capital messuage of Philip Marmion, lord of the manor of Middleton in 1292 and the hall lies within a deerpark which was first mentioned in 1247⁶⁶. The oldest surviving building at Middleton Hall is a stone built room in the east range, which has been dated to the 14th century⁶⁷. Excavations indicate that the moated site at Middleton was established on previously cultivated land, suggesting that it was already an organised settlement⁶⁸.

- 3.5.10 Evidence for medieval settlement and economic activity within the Study Area is far greater than preceding periods. As with the early medieval period, the settlement pattern would have been dominated by dispersed settlements and hamlets within a wooded landscape which was systematically being assarted and new tracts of land exploited for agriculture. Scattered areas of ridge and furrow cultivation are seen throughout the Study Area, while these have not been definitively dated to the medieval period, they may represent the small scale cultivation associated with dispersed settlements.

3.6 Post medieval

AD1540-1901

- 3.6.1 The post-medieval period saw the enclosure of the landscape, at first on a piecemeal basis, and, from the 18th century onwards, on a more rigid pattern under the Inclosure Acts and Commons Acts of 1773 to 1882, which allowed the land-owner or tenant to improve the land in ways not formerly possible. The period also saw changes involving the re-colonisation of marginal land, improvement of meadow systems and sophisticated woodland management⁶⁹. The onset of the industrial revolution affected all parts of the country, changing the character of both the landscape and the population. There were new types of buildings and structures and landscapes were exploited at levels not seen before. The period also witnessed a mass movement of people to more industrialised areas.
- 3.6.2 Informal, non-legislative enclosure of unenclosed fields began in the later medieval period, although the first Enclosure Act was not until 1602. Enclosure by legislation peaked in the late 18th and 19th century, creating the resulting fields which are the principle feature of the existing landscape of the Study Area. The preservation of these post-enclosure boundaries reflects the change from a largely arable farming economy to a predominantly pastoral system⁷⁰; the last great change in the countryside prior to the 20th century. The historic mapping for the Study Area records that many of the historic field boundaries remain in place up until the mid- to late-19th century, after which field boundaries were removed to create large open fields. The LiDAR survey identified numerous examples of historic field boundaries which no longer exist, many of which could be correlated with those recorded in the first edition OS mapping for the area.

⁶⁵ Salzman, L.F., ed. (1947), *A History of the County of Warwick 4: Hemlingford Hundred*, <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/source.aspx?pubid=286>, Accessed 19 June 2012.

⁶⁶ Hodder 1992, 51.

⁶⁷ Ibid.

⁶⁸ Ibid.

⁶⁹ Belford, P. (2011), 'The archaeology of everything' – grappling with post-medieval, industrial and contemporary archaeology. In: Watt, S., ed., *The Archaeology of the West Midlands: A Framework for Research*. Oxbow Books: Oxford.

⁷⁰ Alexander, Palmer and Chadd, 2008.

- 3.6.3 The development of the south Staffordshire coalfields in the 16th century and the onset of the industrial revolution affected the English landscape. Beforehand, charcoal had been the primary fuel for household fires and metalworkings. Coppice woodland provided a regular supply of relatively quick growing, straight timber for the charcoal making, and there may have been associated smaller scale industry, such as smithies, requiring regular charcoal supplies. Remains of charcoal manufacturing have been located to the east of Dunton Hall and north of Curdworth (CWM013; CWM117) consisting of dark circular soil discolouration associated with charcoal burning platforms⁷¹.
- 3.6.4 The remains of an ancient woodland lies to the east of Dunton Hall at Dunton Wood (CWM015) and the modern OS mapping retains the name Dunton Coppice for a small settlement between the charcoal site and Dunton Wood, highlighting the importance of coppice for charcoal manufacturing. The availability of charcoal would have been an important factor in the development of local iron working, which has a long history in the region, evidenced by the forge recorded at Lea Marston (CWM012), and a Blacksmiths workshop west of Bodymoor Heath (CWM032). Rogers's Coppice (CWM040) is recorded in the first edition OS mapping just to the south of Middleton, and its name survives today. The woodland is not far from the village of Middleton, where an iron works is recorded (CWM047). Although the historic environment record (HER) records the location of this iron works as unknown, the first edition OS mapping locates a smithy on the western edge of the village, and the modern OS mapping locates a barn conversion named 'The Olde Smithy' on the same site (CWM048).
- 3.6.5 Quarrying for clay and sand across the region supported the expanding brick industry⁷². Clay and sand pits are found in the central and northern part of the Study Area, whilst a brickworks and kiln (CWM037) is recorded in the HER south of Hunts Green. The site gave its name to Brick Kiln Lane, on which it is located. A further seven disused pits were located on the first edition OS mapping and over 15 more pits and hollows, thought to be former quarry pits, found during the LiDAR survey. Of the hollows and pits, three could be linked to named marl, sand or clay extraction pits recorded on the first edition OS mapping. The Victoria County History⁷³ records a gravel pit being worked in Curdworth Village, although the first edition OS mapping only records an old sand pit in the village. A marl pit is recorded in the Church Field at the end of the 18th century, when Curdworth Meadow and 600 acres of land were enclosed⁷⁴. Over 35 ponds were identified in the LiDAR survey, of which 24 are marked as such on the first edition OS mapping for the area. A number of hollows thought to be former pits or ponds were identified in the LiDAR survey but could not be correlated with any features recorded in the OS Mapping dating from 1875 – 1880. Lime kilns, such as at Dunton Wharf (CWM118), along with marl pits demonstrate the importance of lime and marl as an agricultural fertilizer in the region⁷⁵.
- 3.6.6 A small number of the ponds were marked as reed beds, and osier beds are also known within the Study Area. Census records for villages to the north of the Study

⁷¹ Alexander, Palmer and Chadd, 2008.

⁷² Ibid.

⁷³ Salzman 1947.

⁷⁴ Ibid.

⁷⁵ Alexander, Palmer and Chadd 2008.

Area record a number of specialist basket makers⁷⁶. and the osier and reed beds may well have been managed to support this small scale local industry.

- 3.6.7 Watermills were a primary source of power through to the mid-18th century. Within the Study Area, Cuttle Mill (CWMo21; CWMo77) was a corn mill in use until the early 20th century. The mill ponds survive as recreational fishing ponds. The use of windmills also expanded during the post-medieval period although few have been identified within the region, and they seem to have been largely replaced by watermills by the 19th century, particularly in the north of the region. Steam power came to dominate in the mid- to late 19th century, and in many cases water and wind powered mills were modified to take steam engines⁷⁷.
- 3.6.8 By the end of the 17th century, coal had become the primary fuel for both domestic and industrial fires. The local availability of coal fuelled the expansion of industrial scale metalworking in the wider region, dramatically changing the landscape. The Study Area did, however, retain its rural character throughout the post-medieval period. Advances in industrial processes and techniques enabled improvements in transport communications, firstly with the construction of canals in the 18th century and followed by the railways in the 19th century. This spurred the expansion of industrial processes and national and international trade. The canals, railways and expanding urban areas were the major factors shaping the rural and urban landscape of England during the 19th and early 20th century, although much of this development took place to the west of the Study Area.
- 3.6.9 The Birmingham and Fazeley Canal, opened in 1789, bisects the Study Area between Bodymoor Heath in the east and Curdworth in the west and includes an array of infrastructure, including tunnels, locks, bridges, depots and wharves (CWMo67; CWMo68; CWMo69; CWMo70; CWMo71; CWMo81; CWMo96; CWM118; CWM127). There are ten canal locks on the section of canal within the Study Area, and surviving wharfage at Dunton and Bodymoor Heath. The site of a wharf at Marston Field Bridge is recorded on the second edition OS mapping, which dates to 1898-1904, but seems to have gone by the time the third edition maps between 1914 and 1947.
- 3.6.10 Middleton Hall and the associated parkland contain a number of landscape garden features. In the wider park a circular ditch cropmark with radiating linear ditches, can be compared with park landscaping dating to the reign of Charles II (CWMo99). Alternatively, it is possible that the circular feature is a Victorian tree circle, as there is some correlation between the crop marks and trees marked on the first edition OS mapping. To the south-west of the hall, a number of features representing the remains of formal gardens and tree-throw holes are thought to be former copses, similar to those present today. Two small ponds to the south-west of the house may be the result of small-scale mineral extraction, possibly for marl, but are undated.
- 3.6.11 The post-medieval period is well represented within the Study Area, with small-scale industrial remains, infrastructure, land management and agricultural features. The settlements within the Study Area developed significantly during this time, the deforestation and enclosure of the landscape was undertaken and infrastructure

⁷⁶ Stratton, M and Trinder, B. (1993), *Fazeley: An Evaluation of a Midlands Industrial Landscape*. Unpublished Client Report

⁷⁷ Alexander, Palmer and Chadd 2008.

linked the area with large scale industries to the west. The majority of the landscape was used for agriculture with arable fields dominating

3.7 20th century/modern

1901-present

- 3.7.1 The south and east of Middleton Hall has been subject to 20th century gravel extraction which has removed parts of the original designed landscape.
- 3.7.2 Infrastructure and industrial developments feature strongly at the southern end of the Study Area, while the field patterns throughout much of the Study Area changed in the post-war period. Much of Middleton Park has been affected by gravel extraction, with arable agriculture still dominating much of the landscape.

4 Built heritage

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 This section provides baseline information relating to built heritage assets within the land potentially required for construction, 500m Study Area and within 2km of the centreline. The section provides the following information:
- broad overview of the character and form of the settlement pattern and key assets within the CFA;
 - detailed descriptions of all built heritage assets wholly or partially within the land potentially required for construction;
 - detailed descriptions of key built heritage assets within the 500m Study Area; and
 - descriptions of other key designated built heritage assets that lie outside of the 500m study area but within 2km of the centreline.
- 4.1.2 Further information on these and other built heritage assets designated assets, can be found in the Gazetteer in Appendix CH-002-020.

4.2 Overview of settlement character

- 4.2.1 The Study Area is characterised by a number of small nucleated settlements, many with medieval origins. Curdworth and Lea Marston are located at the south of the Study Area with Middleton at the north. The settlement at Kingsbury is located at the eastern extent of the Study Area. Smaller settlements are present at Wishaw, Marston and Hunts Green. Beyond these foci, is a dispersed pattern of farmsteads largely of 18th to 19th century date. The Birmingham and Fazeley canal extends through the Study Area with a number of bridges and associated structures along its course. The Kingsbury and Water Orton Railway extends through the south of the Study Area with the Stonebridge railway further east.
- 4.2.2 At Curdworth is the Grade II* listed church of St Nicholas and St Peter, on the west side of the settlement. The church has 12th century origins and modifications dating from the 14th and 15th centuries (CWM057). At the centre of the village is group of Grade II listed buildings focussed along Coleshill Road extending north-south. These include timber framed buildings of 15th-17th century date (CWM056). A number of non-designated historic buildings are located to the east and south of the settlement. On the east side of the village a 17th century cottage is located on Farthing Lane together with 18th to 19th century farmsteads and cottages and the Beehive Inn on Beehive Lane (CWM055). A further group of 18th to 19th century cottages is aligned upon Coleshill Road in the south of the settlement (CWM053). To the south-east is a 19th century bridge crossing the River Tame (COL102). The bridge replaced an earlier 16th century structure to its west, which is no longer extant.
- 4.2.3 At Lea Marston a number of Grade II listed timber framed cottages are present, dating from the 17th century (CWM058). The Grade II listed Church of St John the Baptist is located to the south of the settlement and includes fabric dating from the 14th century.

- 4.2.4 The small settlement at Marston is located to the north of Lea Marston and c. 500m east of the scheme. The detached early 19th century farmhouse at The Hollies, together with associated buildings, are Grade II listed (CWMo66). The settlement also includes a non-designated timber framed house of possible 16th century date, with an attached brick-built barn of likely 18th century date (CWM133).
- 4.2.5 Wishaw is located 1.3km west of the Proposed Scheme. The settlement is relatively dispersed, but is likely to have originally focussed around the Grade II* listed Church of St Chad which is sandstone built and of 13th century origin, having been restored in the 19th century (CWMo72).
- 4.2.6 At the east of the Study Area, c. 2km to the east of the scheme, the settlement at Kingsbury includes a conservation area which includes the scheduled and Grade II* listed Kingsbury Hall. The hall is located above the River Tame and incorporates a sandstone house and a substantial curtain wall with 14th century fabric. The Grade II* listed Church of St Peter and St Paul is also constructed of sandstone and dates from the 12th century with subsequent alterations and additions.
- 4.2.7 The small settlement of Hunts Green is located c.300m to the west of the scheme. Buildings are non-designated and largely date from the 18th-19th century and focus upon Wishaw Lane. They include brick built cottages and a courtyard plan farmstead at White Farmhouse (CWMo98). Hunts Green Farm is located at the southern end of the settlement (CWMo97) with a further farmstead to the south (CWMo95).
- 4.2.8 Middleton is located at the north of the Study Area. The Church of St John the Baptist forms a focal point at the centre of the village, with the church tower visible when approaching the village from the east (CWM103). The church has 12th century origins and the base of a medieval stone cross is also located within the church yard. Further designated and non-designated historic buildings are located along Church Lane at the centre of the village and include a 17th century smithy, a number of 18th-19th century cottages and a three storey 19th century school house (CWMo48).
- 4.2.9 Middleton Hall, to the east of the village of Middleton is Grade II* listed and incorporates medieval and early post-medieval buildings, along with a further timber framed Grade II* listed structure to the north-east (CWM100). The hall complex is set within designed parkland which originated as a medieval deer park (CWM 099). A range of buildings at the hall includes structures with medieval fabric and timber framed early post-medieval buildings. The principal house is largely of 18th-19th century construction and includes a walled garden and pavilion. To the north of the hall is a Grade II listed walled garden (CWM101).
- 4.2.10 Beyond the principal nucleated settlements is a dispersed pattern of historic settlement. Within this pattern there are examples of timber framed buildings dating from as early as the 17th century such as Cabut Lodge, north of Lea Marston (CWMo65) and Moorash Farmhouse (CWMo86) to the east of Bodymoor Heath. The dispersed settlement pattern is, however, largely characterised by brick-built farmsteads. The Grade II listed Dunton Hall with barns and pigeonhouse, dates from the late 17th-early 18th century (CWMo59). Blackgreaves farmhouse is a late 18th century three-storey red brick building (CWMo63). Mullensgrove Farm is an 18th-19th century farmstead with outbuildings including a former threshing barn (CWMo61). At Middleton House Farm is a courtyard farmstead dating to the 18th-19th century

(CWMo83). At the north of the Study Area is Upper House Farm, a 19th century courtyard farmstead overlooking surrounding agricultural land (CWM105).

- 4.2.11 This dispersed pattern of settlement was cut through by the Birmingham and Fazeley Canal, which extends through the Study Area from Curdworth in the south-west to Bodymoor Heath in the north-east. The canal opened in 1789 and surviving built heritage includes bridges and locks a number of which are grade II listed, together with a tunnel at Curdworth (CWM o67; CWMo96). Buildings associated with the canal include the grade II listed Dog and Doublet Inn, bridges and a lock at Bodymoor Heath, together with non-designated canal-side buildings (CWMo81; CWM127).

4.3 Built Heritage assets within the land required for construction

- 4.3.1 The built heritage assets are described below from south to north within the area of proposed land take.

Curdworth Bridge (COL102)

- 4.3.2 Curdworth Bridge is located at the south of the Study Area and was re-constructed in 1836 in order to replace an earlier 16th century bridge located further upstream (COL102). The piers of the earlier bridge, west of the existing structure, were visible in the 1950s, but not identified subsequently. A motorway crosses the river upstream and to the west of the existing bridge. The bridge is non-designated and the asset is of moderate value.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.3.3 The setting of the bridge is dominated by the presence of the motorway c.70m to the west. More open floodplains along the river are visible to the east, which provide a historical context for the bridge and contribute to its significance.

Mullensgrove Farm (CWMo61)

- 4.3.4 Mullensgrove Farm is an 18th century farmstead which appears on the 1767 plan of Dunton Manor (CWMo61). A detached two storey brick built farmhouse survives along with single storey agricultural buildings to the west, including a threshing barn and stables, now largely integrated into modern structures. The buildings are non-designated and of low value.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.3.5 The buildings are surrounded to the west by open agricultural fields bounded by the M42 with further open field visible beyond. Modern farm buildings are present to the west of the historic farm. The farmhouse is accessed via a drive and is set back from the road to the east. Gardens and a pool to the east are present on historic mapping from at least the mid-19th century. Despite modern farm development, therefore, parts of the historic layout of the farm are legible which contributes to its significance.

Middleton House Farm (CWMo83)

- 4.3.6 Middleton House Farm (CWMo83) is an 18th to 19th century regular courtyard farmstead comprising a large attached two storey brick built farmhouse and cart shed or granary. To north of the courtyard are two detached brick buildings with smaller detached brick-built ancillary buildings to the south of the principal building range. Extant buildings are present which date to at least the late 19th century, as depicted

on the first edition Ordnance Survey mapping. The historic buildings are largely converted for commercial use. Large modern commercial structures and converted 20th century barns are present to the east and north of the historic farm buildings. The buildings are otherwise situated within an agricultural setting. The buildings are non-designated and of low value.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.3.7 The farm complex is located within an agricultural setting and is set back from the A441 via a trackway and the setting is much the same as that indicated by historic mapping. The farm buildings have views across open agricultural land and ancient woodland to the south. Despite the fact that a number of modern farm and other structures have been constructed to the east of the historic farmhouse, the buildings retain a rural setting.

Section of the Birmingham and Fazeley Canal (CWM070)

- 4.3.8 A section of the Birmingham and Fazeley Canal to the north-east of Curdworth (CWM70) includes three locks (Numbers 31, 32 and 33) and White Bridge, a late 18th century brick built bridge. The canal was authorised under act of parliament in 1784, with construction led by John Smeaton, and ultimately opened in 1789. The structures are non-designated and are of moderate value to their association with the canal and designated assets along it.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.3.9 The canal is surrounded by open agricultural land to the west with the M42 parallel to the east. There is inter-visibility between many of the structures on the canal including locks and bridges. The significance of structures along the canal is in part defined by their visual relationship with each other and the canal.

4.4 Key built heritage assets within 500m of the land potentially required for construction

Newlands Farm, Faraday Avenue (CWM052)

- 4.4.1 Newlands Farm is a non-designated 18th to 19th century detached two storey farmhouse with rendered brickwork. It is double pile plan with double pitched roof creating gabled north facing facade with cornice running across at eaves level and along verge of gable. Windows within the facade have an unusual emphasized keystone with projecting string course.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.4.2 The building is situated on the southern side of Faraday Avenue with views to the west over open fields. The agricultural fields to the west provide a historical landscape context for the farm and contribute to its significance.

Dunton Hall, barns and pigeonhouse (CWM059)

- 4.4.3 Dunton Hall, barns and pigeonhouse are located close to the west of the proposed scheme and are Grade II listed and of moderate value. The barns are adjacent to the proposed land take and the principal house is c.60m to the west of the scheme. The building complex comprises the main hall, with small attached outbuildings and a cottage range directly to the south of the hall. In addition to the east is a courtyard

range of barns. Dunton Hall is said to have been the home of Dr. Samuel Johnson's maternal grandparents, Cornelius and Anne Ford. The House, Barn and pigeonhouse date from the late 17th century and are detailed in mapping, plans and illustrations from 1767 onwards.

- 4.4.4 The house at Dunton Hall is of red brick with a hipped plain tile roof and brick ridge stacks. A late 18th century extension wing is attached to the south. Internally, the house is surprisingly unaltered and generally has not been subject to extensive modernisation.
- 4.4.5 The Barn is of late 17th to early 18th century date of red brick with plain tile and slate roof, hipped to the south-west and L-shaped in plan. The late 17th century to 18th century pigeonhouse is located to the north west of the hall within open grounds. It is two storey and square in plan and constructed of red brick with a hipped plain tile roof.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.4.6 The principal facade of Dunton Hall faces west. This looks out onto a formal walled and slightly raised garden and open ground beyond, with the M42 road junction further to the west. Views from rooms located on the eastern side are surprisingly rural in character and feel. The setting of the hall retains many features recorded on historic mapping from the 18th century. Elements of the layout of formal gardens as depicted on historic mapping can be discerned. The agricultural landscape to the east and west forms a significant component of the historical setting of the hall.

Lea Marston Old School, Kingsbury Road (CWMo64)

- 4.4.7 Lea Marston Old School is a non-designated building of late 18th to 19th century date. The principal element of the building comprises a brick built and rendered cottage. A two storey brick built dwelling abuts the south facing elevation of this structure. West of the dwellings is a narrow L-plan range of buildings, possibly agricultural in origin.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.4.8 The building faces onto Kingsbury Road, with some screening in the form of hedgerows. A golf course lies beyond to the south. An area of woodland to the west of the buildings screens distant views in that direction. The setting of the asset within an agricultural and wooded landscape, which contributes to its significance, yet a series of storage yards to the north give it a partially industrial character.

Cuttle Mill (CWMo77)

- 4.4.9 Cuttle Mill is recorded in a plan and elevation of 1763 and in cartographic sources from 1767 (CWMo77). Subsequent mapping indicates additions and alterations to the complex, with the house and mill re-built by 1847, with further alterations by 1888. The site includes a number of extant non-designated late 18th and 19th century buildings, with a dwelling and mill building at the west of the complex and a number of former barns. Many of the buildings, including the mill building have been converted for residential or commercial use and any mill machinery has been removed. The buildings are non-designated and of low value.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.4.10 Dense tree cover screens views to the south and east, creating an enclosed setting. The complex is accessed via a trackway which contributes to its isolated setting. Views to the north include open agricultural land and ancient woodland. The mill is located adjacent to a group of former mill ponds directly associated with the historic use of the mill. The isolated and enclosed nature of the setting of Cuttle Mill, together with its relationship with the historic landscape, contributes to the significance of the asset.

Primrose Cottage, Bodymoor Heath Road (CWMo84)

- 4.4.11 Late 18th to 19th century cottage with extensive modern additions. Northern two thirds of north-south range possibly original cottage with extensions to south and east

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.4.12 Situated within agricultural setting with dense screening to the north and open views to the south and west over open fields. The agricultural landscape surrounding the cottage reflects its historic landscape context and contributes to its significance.

Middleton Hall(CWM100)

- 4.4.13 Middleton Hall is a Grade II * listed house, of high value, set within parkland (CWM100). The principal building complex forms a courtyard with an entrance on its north side. On the east side of the courtyard is a building of sandstone construction which includes fabric from the 12th century within a building of 14th century date. A timber framed structure in the east range of the courtyard may have been a medieval chapel. The north-east corner of the courtyard is formed by a timber-framed building of possible 16th century date, altered in the 18th -19th century.
- 4.4.14 The existing principal house at Middleton Hall forms the west and north sides of the courtyard, is brick-built and early 18th century in date, with a 19th century wing. Contemporary service buildings form the southern range of the courtyard.
- 4.4.15 A further Grade II* listed house, of high value, forms part of Middleton Hall complex and is located 50m to the north-east of the principal hall complex (CWM100). The building is of timber framed construction with brick infill and sandstone components. The building lies within the centre of parkland with no views out beyond its immediate setting.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.4.16 The hall is situated within the centre of a designed park, accessed via private drive with tree plantations framing a former designed view looking from the west elevation. The second listed house lies within the centre of parkland with no views out beyond its immediate setting. The historical context of the buildings at Middleton Hall is in part defined by their setting within parkland which has medieval origins. The setting of the buildings, therefore, contributes to the isolated perception of the complex at Middleton Hall and significance of the assets.

Garden wall, gatepiers and pavilion north west of Middleton hall (CWM101)

- 4.4.17 To the north-west of Middleton Hall is an associated Grade II listed walled garden with gate piers and pavilion of 18th century date and of moderate value (CWM101). The

walls enclose three sides of the garden with a two-storey square planned pavilion located in the north-east corner. The walled garden lies to the north-west of Middleton Hall and is bounded to the north and west by mature trees, with no views beyond the surrounding park.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.4.18 The walled garden lies to the north of Middleton Hall and is bounded to the north and west by mature trees, with no views beyond the surrounding park. The seclusion of the walled garden clearly contributes to its significance.

Middleton village (CWMo48)

- 4.4.19 Middleton village to the west (CWMo48) includes a group of designated and un-designated buildings, of moderate value, largely arranged along Church Lane, the principal east-west road. The sandstone church boundary wall dates from the 17th century as does the timber framed Old Smithy. The School House is a 19th century 3 storey building, with the cast iron village pump also dating to the 19th century. The un-designated buildings range in date from the 18th-19th century and are largely cottages arranged along Church Street, along with a former farmstead at Middleton Equestrian centre, Middleton First School, The Old Vicarage and a row of cottages north of the church at Church Row.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.4.20 The village of Middleton is situated within a rural setting, accessed principally from the east with roads entering it characterised by their sinuous alignment and enclosure by hedgerows. The significance of the setting of the asset is principally the sense of seclusion within the settlement.

Church of St John the Baptist, Middleton (CWM103)

- 4.4.21 The Church of St John the Baptist, is Grade II* listed and high value (CWM103). The church dates from at least the mid-12th century, with subsequent additions in c.1300 and in the 15th century.
- 4.4.22 The church is principally of sandstone construction. The west tower dates to the 15th century and later alterations took place in the 18th and 19th centuries.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.4.23 The church is situated within the centre of Middleton with open fields visible to the northwest. Views from and to the church are partially obscured by mature trees around the edge of its graveyard. The church tower is visible whilst approaching the village from the west. The secluded setting of the church and churchyard, together with the visibility of the tower in the surrounding landscape contribute to its significance.

4.5 Key designated built heritage assets within 2km of the centreline

Cabot Lodge, Lea Marston (CWMo65)

- 4.5.1 An early 17th century two storey house which is timber-framed with roughcast brick infill panel and a plain-tile roof. The building is situated on Haunch Lane, with its principal elevation orientated to the north

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.5.2 Views to the east of the building overlook agricultural fields which contribute to its historic landscape context and the significance of the asset.

Designated buildings and structures on the Birmingham and Fazeley Canal

- 4.5.3 Bodymoor Heath Bridge is Grade II listed constructed of brick, with ashlar dressings, dating from the early c19th with early c20th repairs. Cheatles Farm Bridge is Grade II listed dating from the late c18th with an elliptical arch and end piers and constructed of English bond brick with rounded stone coping and string course to south side. A Grade II listed lock is approximately 3 metres south of Cheatle's Farm bridge and dates from the late C18th. The Dog and Doublet Inn is a canal-side public house dating from the late 18th to early 19th century with some 19th century additions. It is brick built with 3 storeys and high basement.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.5.4 The significance of structures along the canal is in part defined by their visual relationship with each other and the canal.

Kingsbury swivel bridge and lock, Birmingham and Fazeley canal

- 4.5.5 Two Grade II Listed structures. A canal swivel bridge of late 18th to 19th century date constructed of Iron with planks, with simple handrails and sandstone abutments. The bridge provides access from the road on the eastern bank to the wooded strip of land that runs between the canal and a parallel pond. The canal lock is late 18th century, constructed of English bond brick, with coping of large sandstone blocks and concrete blocks and has single gates

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.5.6 The significance of structures along the canal is in part defined by their visual relationship with each other and the canal.

5 Historic Map Regression

- 5.1.1 The analysis of the cartographic evidence for the Study Area has been integrated within the archaeological and historical baseline narrative (Sections 3 above).

6 Historic landscape

6.1 Historic landscape characterisation

- 6.1.1 The southern end of the Study Area encompasses a variety of different historic landscape types, as described by the Warwickshire Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) data. Modern developments such as sewage works and industrial complexes are surrounded by large post-war and post-enclosure field systems which display little time depth. The landscape of the southern end of the Study Area is also dominated by 20th century infrastructure, such as the M6, as well as older 18th century canal waterways. Modern development and infrastructure has clearly truncated the landscape in this part of the Study Area, resulting in a reconfiguration of the enclosure and pre-enclosure field systems. For the rest of the Study Area the landscape comprises dispersed farmsteads set within large amalgamated field patterns with a dispersed pattern of small nucleated villages and hamlets (Lea Marston, Bodymoor Heath, Hunts Green and Middleton).
- 6.1.2 To the south of the Study Area, near Curdworth, the landscape is one of predominant modernity. Fields are extremely large, post-war fields or other large, rectilinear fields. Patches of small, rectilinear fields exist closer to Curdworth, to the west of the M6 Toll/M42 corridor. The historic Hams Hall, with its formal terraced gardens and pleasure grounds, was demolished in 1920 to build a power station, itself subsequently demolished before the National Distribution Centre that now exists at the location (CWM113). Early maps of Dunton Manor (1767) and Curdworth Meadow (1763) show the land to be heath and meadows, with the fields of Dunton Manor being small, rectilinear fields characteristic of early planned enclosure, and Curdworth Meadow being mostly open fields along the River Tame. The tithe map of Curdworth confirms the Parliamentary enclosure of 600 acres of land in the late 18th century. What had not been enclosed within Dunton and nearby Lea Marston was enclosed by Parliament in 1775. The geography and place names of the area indicate historic uses as meadow and pasture. Woodland-related names such as Wishaw and Lea Marston, along with some remaining woods at Birch Wood, Sych Wood (CWM008) and Dunton Wood (CWM015) and archaeological sites identified as the result of charcoal manufacturing offer insight into a pre-enclosed landscape (CWM013; CWM117). The wood at Dunton Wood is clearly seen on the 1767 map of the manor; it is uncertain whether these are the woods held in 1290 by the Abbot of Merevale and mentioned as being cut in that year by the then-lord of Dunton Manor, Ralph de Gorges. Some earthworks related to the medieval settlement of Curdworth are still visible, but only in close proximity to the existing village.
- 6.1.3 Cuttle Mill (CWM021) is noted as having been in existence from at least 1763. Near Cuttle Mill Pool and Fishery is an area where five parishes – Wishaw, Middleton, Kingsbury, Curdworth and Lea Marston – meet. Parishes rarely converge in this way by chance, and the current mill may overlay a much earlier resource.
- 6.1.4 It is unclear what the relationship of Cuttle Mill was with the moated site in North Wood in Middleton parish. Early OS maps show a water source coming from the ponds at the south end of North Wood into Cuttle Mill Pool. They also show a path linking those ponds with the double-moated site at the north end of North Wood

(CWMo24). The moat is located south of Middleton House Farm, and may be related to that property, though it is part of a separate estate and not included in the 1865 Middleton Estate map.

- 6.1.5 The fields immediately surrounding Middleton House Farm are characterised as large, irregular fields. The HLC confirms that many of the field boundaries were lost in the 20th century; early OS maps show smaller fields, mostly of rectilinear morphology, with a few irregularly-shaped fields fit in. Ridge-and-furrow has been recorded in the area, suggesting an open field system of fairly late enclosure.
- 6.1.6 Moxhull Park (now the Belfry hotel and golf course) was the site of the original manor house for Moxhull. The original manor house was destroyed by fire in 1900, but parts of the designed landscape remain, as do features such as a possible moat and fishpond. Historic OS maps show a race course on the land where there is now a golf course, and traces of ridge-and-furrow earthworks attest to an earlier, open-field arable use for the land.
- 6.1.7 The original deer park at Middleton was in existence by 1247, when it was recorded as being enclosed by manner of a deer leap. "New" Park was created in 1622, though it is not known as to whether or not this was an extension of the existing park, or a separate park altogether. At least a portion of New Park still exists as New Park Wood, approximately 3km west from Middleton Hall.
- 6.1.8 The extent of the medieval deer park is unknown. Evidence to suggest the deer park was more extensive than the surviving parkland around Middleton Hall can be found in nearby place names: Hunts Green, Park Farm, Coneybury Wood and Farm, and Kennels Wood.
- 6.1.9 By the 19th century the deer park was constrained to the area closest to Middleton Hall, and included landscape gardens as well as features related to the hunt. Though the HLC identifies the area as being a designed park landscape with adjacent fields of Parliamentary-type planned enclosure, aerial photographs give the impression only of wooded belts separating quarries from roads extending from the A4091 to the west and Bodymoor Heath Road on the south to north of Coneybury Wood.
- 6.1.10 The outline of Middleton Park can still be discerned by the band of trees ringing parcels of land to the south of Middleton Hall, but the legibility of the parkland landscape within that wooded boundary is severely compromised. Other landscape features closer to the historic structure of Middleton Hall have fared better than the surrounding parkland. There is a moat surrounding the north forecourt of Middleton Hall and ridge-and-furrow earthworks have been recorded in the area now called Middleton Park. The pools near the manor house may have some antiquity, as a fishery at Middleton Hall was recorded in 1291, along with two mills. Unfortunately, quarrying has destroyed much of the landscape to the east of the hall, much of it being disused and subsequently re-filled with water. Many disused quarries were filled in 1975 to create Kingsbury Water Park.
- 6.1.11 The Middleton Deer Park did not exist in isolation in the landscape. Middleton Parish, along with the Warwickshire parishes of Kingsbury, Wishaw, Curdworth and Lea Marston made up part of Sutton Chase, along with the Borough of Sutton Coldfield, and Curdworth & Minworth, Aston, Handsworth, Shenstone, Weeford, Hints, and

Drayton Bassett parishes. Sutton Chase, the private hunting grounds attached to the royal manor at Sutton, was part of the Cannock Forest at the time of Domesday. In 1126, it was created out of Cannock Forest, as the area where the Earls of Warwick had sole hunting rights for deer, large game, and wild boar⁷⁸. The size of the Chase means that it was not used solely for hunting; daily life went on in its hamlets and villages – crops were grown, livestock grazed, industry continued. Smaller deer parks are features within the Chase, and often include a manorial residence within their bounds. Many of these houses were moated to prevent the deer from getting into the manors' kitchen gardens and residential areas.

6.2 Historic parks and gardens

- 6.2.1 There are no Grade I, II* or II Registered Parks within 2km of the area of land take. Non-designated parks and gardens of local historical significance are described below.
- 6.2.2 At Middleton Hall a park existed surrounding the Grade II* listed (CWM099). The park may have formed part of a wider deer park known to have existed from the 13th century. The first edition OS map shows a designed landscape near the hall, with numerous avenues of trees along the roads to and from the Hall, as well as other landscape features. There are extant remnants of designed features surrounding the hall including avenues, a lake, plantations, formal gardens and a kitchen garden. This includes the Grade II listed walled garden. Former plantations and designed features within the parkland have been identified by aerial photography north of the hall. Quarrying activities have, however, affected the legibility of the historic features of the broader parkland.
- 6.2.3 Moxhull Park has medieval origins and was associated with the former Moxhull Hall (CWM 079; CWM125). The park became the site of a race course in the early 20th century. Although the HER records designed features including plantations, lodge, drive, pleasure grounds, terrace, formal planting and gardens within the park, very little evidence of this now remains with the entire grounds re-arranged to form a golf course. Some of the historic designed landscape features are now difficult to interpret and dense tree cover along the eastern boundary of the park screens views into and out of the grounds.
- 6.2.4 At Dunton Hall the house and gardens are first illustrated in mapping of 1767 (CWM060). The field 'old park' to the south-east of the house may represent broader parkland once associated with Dunton Hall. In mapping of 1833 lawns are depicted to the west of the house, with gardens in an enclosure to the south-east. Further gardens are adjacent to a paddock to the west, along with a pond. A pond adjacent to the drive is present from at least 1767 and may represent a former marl pit. It is notable that a further pond is present in fields to the west in 1833 and that the two appear to be connected by a stream. This may suggest water management. 'Ozier beds', possibly for the growing of willow, are recorded in 1833 to the south of the pond at Dunton Hall.

⁷⁸ Hodder, M. (1988b), *The Development of Some Aspects of Settlement and Land Use in Sutton Chase*. Unpublished PhD thesis, University of Birmingham.

- 6.2.5 The gardens at Dunton Hall are currently lawns located to the west of the hall in front of the principal facade. This part of the garden is slightly elevated and enclosed by the remains of a wall. The remaining areas are largely pasture surrounded by mature hedgerows. Whilst the garden retains a very low legibility of historic designed features, it does comprise the setting of several listed buildings at Dunton Hall that lie within the garden.

6.3 Important hedgerows

- 6.3.1 Four hedgerows within the Study Area meet the criteria 1 to 5 of Schedule One, Part II of the 1997 Hedgerow Regulations and can therefore be considered “important” under the terms of the Regulations. One follows a parish boundary north of Cuttle Mill Fishery (CWM022). Three additional hedgerows follow the line of the parish and county boundary at the northern extent of the Study Area, and also form the boundary of the Middleton Estate as mapped in the 1830s (DHW148). The boundary has the potential, however, to have earlier origins. The manor at Middleton is known from Domesday and has been in the Willoughby family since 1435.

7 Archaeological character

7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 To determine the archaeological potential for the Study Area, it was sub-divided into archaeological character areas (ACA). These ACAs are derived from a consideration of the current topography, geology and current land use of the area. From these factors the potential for recovery of archaeological remains are considered.
- 7.1.2 From these broad character areas, the landscape was further subdivided into archaeological sub-zones (ASZ), which have allowed for a more in-depth understanding of the archaeological potential of the CFA. Although initially defined and characterised by current land use, a number of additional factors have determined the potential of these sub-zones to contain archaeological remains of significance. These factors include topography, geology, historic character and distribution of known archaeological finds, sites and assets.

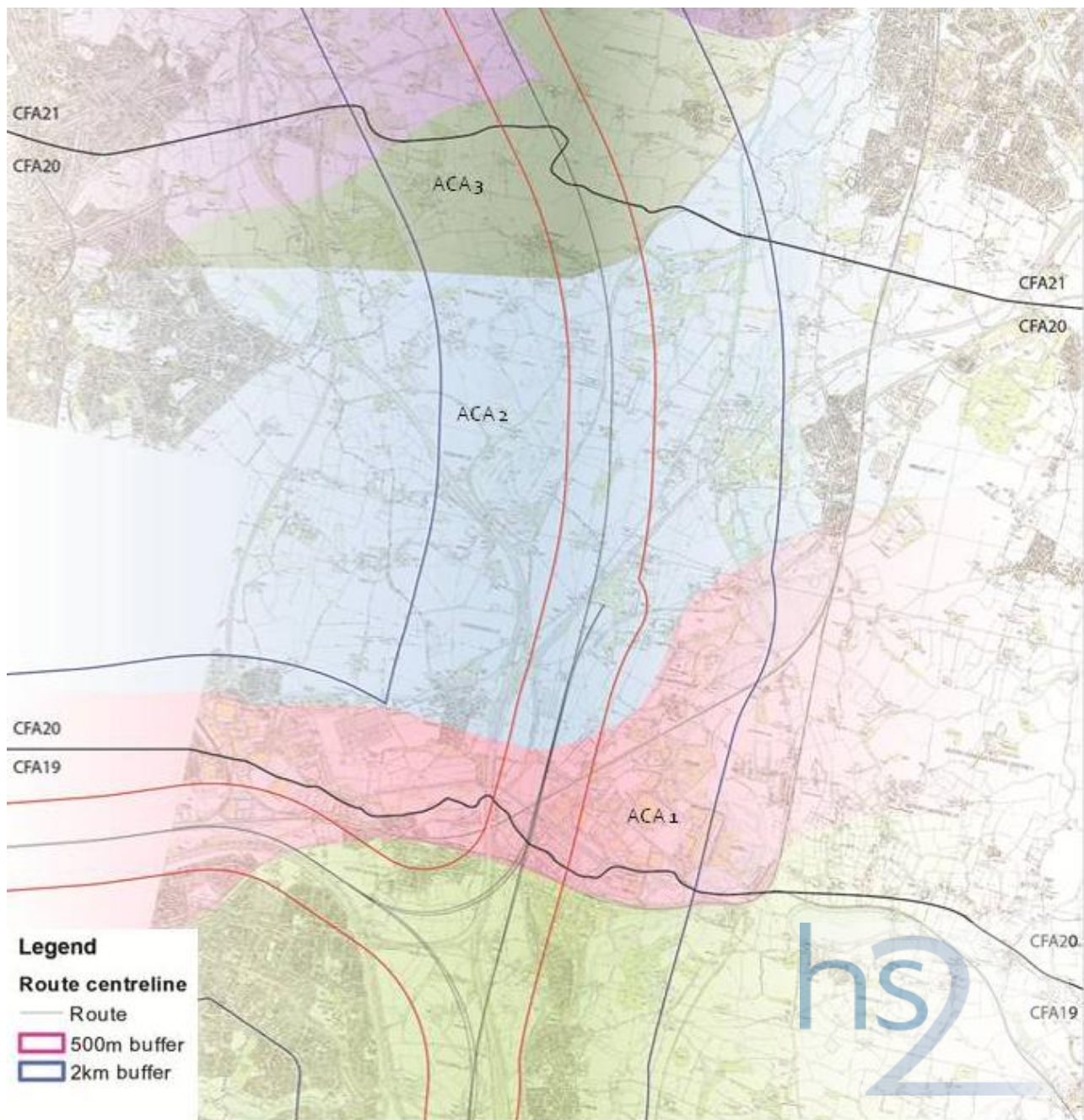
7.2 Character areas

- 7.2.1 The ACAs described below extend from south to north within the Study Area.

ACA 1. Floodplain of the River Tame

- 7.2.2 At the southern part of the CFA the area is dominated by the floodplain of the River Tame. The northern edge closely defines the extent of the valley floor. This ACA has undergone radical change during the 20th century due to industrial and infrastructure developments and the area now displays little or no historic character. The ACA lies at approximately 70-80m AOD and the landscape is dominated by the M42 motorway and National Distribution Park.
- 7.2.3 The late 19th and early 20th century saw the beginning of industrialisation in the area with the construction of a number of railways and canals across the ACA and the surrounding landscape. Prior to these developments the character of the area was dominated by agricultural fields and meadows, with Hams Hall park and garden partially within the area. The medieval settlement of Lea Marston is located at the northern end of the area.
- 7.2.4 The geology of this ACA comprises both alluvium of the River Tame and the sand and gravel deposits of the river terraces. Where there has been little previous disturbance the potential for recovery of archaeological remains increases, however, much of this ACA has been affected by recent development thus decreasing the potential recovery of archaeological remains considerably.

Figure 1: Archaeological character areas



ACA 2. River terraces

- 7.2.5 This ACA, characterised largely by arable agricultural fields rising to heights of approximately 100m AOD, and extends northwards across the central portion of the CFA from the River Tame floodplain, to the course of Langley Brook. From north of Dunton Hall at the southern end of the ACA, to Middleton at the north, the landscape remains relatively flat, at approximately 80m AOD. While the ACA is dominated by agricultural land, there are a number of large infrastructure corridors (M6 and M42) at the southern end. The existing fieldscapes are mainly characterised by large regular fields created from the amalgamation of smaller fields during the 20th century. Small, more historic, fieldscapes do partially survive near to the medieval settlement of Middleton. The medieval core of Curdworth village (CWM005) is partially within the ACA with other post-medieval farmsteads and settlements scattered along the length

of the area. Surviving elements of the historic landscape include areas of ancient woodland at North Wood (CWM024) and Coneybury Wood south of Middleton Hall parkland (CWM039).

- 7.2.6 Much of the ACA is undisturbed agricultural land which increases the potential for survival of archaeological remains. The geology and topography of the zone, being dominated largely by free-draining sands and gravels of the river terraces and having a relatively level topography with gentle slopes towards the River Tame, indicates this ACA may have been a suitable location for activity throughout the historic and prehistoric periods.

ACA 3. River terrace and tributaries

- 7.2.7 Northwards from southern extent of Middleton village, the river terraces of the River Tame are interspersed by two tributaries, Gallows Brook and Langley Brook. These tributaries were utilised for rural industry within the area, with historic mills and ironworks known to have been located within the ACA.
- 7.2.8 No evidence of these historic industries survives above ground, and the landscape is now dominated by large 20th century fields with some historic legibility of earlier agricultural divisions surrounding Middleton village. The presence of these brooks may also have influenced prehistoric exploitation of the landscape with an increased potential for activity within the ACA. The medieval core of Middleton village is located within the ACA and is surrounded by post-medieval and modern developments. The historic county boundary between Staffordshire and Warwickshire, which runs along Gallows Brook, traverses the zone.
- 7.2.9 The geology and topography of the zone, being dominated largely by free-draining sands and gravels of the river terraces and having a relatively level topography, which rises gently north-westwards, indicates this ACA may have been a suitable location of activity throughout the historic and prehistoric periods. This ACA also has less modern disturbance from infrastructure and industry than the other ACAs, thus increasing the potential of the area to yield archaeological remains.

7.3 Archaeological sub-zones

- 7.3.1 The ASZs are presented in the table below from south to north. An indication of archaeological potential for each sub-zone is provided.

Table 1 Archaeological sub-zones

No	Name	Topography	Geology/soils	Modern land use	Historic landscape character (HLC)	Archaeology (from baseline)
1	National Distribution Centre	Located on the floodplain and valley sides of the River Tame	Mercia mudstone group. River terrace deposits of sand and gravel	Modern industrial centre	Meadows and water and valley floor. Part of Hams Hall also within area	Hams Hall park and garden formerly at northern end of subzone. Although there is a potential for palaeo-environmental remains within waterlogged deposits along valley floor the construction of distribution park may have destroyed any surviving remains.
2	River Tame floodplain and valley	Floodplain and valley side rising to the north and south	Mercia mudstone group. Galciofluvial deposits of sand and gravel at the north as well as glaciolacustrine deposits of clay and silt with alluvium along the river valley and river terrace deposits of sand and gravel at the south	Agriculture at the north, scrubland either side of the Tame	Fieldscape, marshland and post-war fieldscapes.	No archaeological remains known. Potential for palaeo-environmental remains within waterlogged deposits along valley floor.
3	Motorway corridor	Traversing the terrace of the River Tame at the south and centre of the subzone, at the north it descends in to the river valley and floodplain	Mercia mudstone group. Alluvium to the south and north, glaciofluvial deposits of sand and gravel as well as glaciolacustrine deposits of clay and silt	Modern infrastructure with pockets of agricultural land	Characterised in HLC as motorway, previously fieldscapes.	No known archaeological remains. Adjacent to the motorways are cropmarks features of a possible deserted medieval village (DMV) and a findspot of Roman pottery.
4	River Tame floodplain and valley	Floodplain and valley side rising to the north and south	Mercia mudstone group. Alluvium of clay silt sand and gravel and river terrace deposits of sand and gravel on the higher areas	Meadows, scrubland and possible filter beds associated with large sewage works to the west.	Marsh and valley meadows	Ridge and furrow recorded at the northern end of the subzone. Potential for palaeo-environmental remains within waterlogged deposits along valley floor. Disturbance from sewage works may have destroyed archaeology at the northern end of the subzone
5	Pasture fields east of Curdworth	Located on relatively flat river terrace	Mercia mudstone group. Galciofluvial deposits of sand and gravel.	Agriculture, pasture	Fieldscape, small rectilinear fields shown on 1st edn OS map	No archaeological remains within the subzone, located adjacent to Curdworth medieval settlement and on a terrace close to the Tame.

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No	Name	Topography	Geology/soils	Modern land use	Historic landscape character (HLC)	Archaeology (from baseline)
6	Curdworth nucleated settlement	Located on relatively flat river terrace 85m AOD with ride to the north	Mercia mudstone group. Glaciolacustrine deposits of clay and silt	Modern and historic settlement of Curdworth	Historic settlement with surrounding fieldscape	Medieval core of Curdworth village within the subzone. Site of moat and manor house also within the subzone
7	Arable fields on river terrace north of Curdworth	River terrace at 90m AOD	Mercia mudstone group. Glaciolacustrine deposits of clay and silt	Agriculture, mainly arable with road traversing subzone.	Fieldscape, large irregular fields	No known archaeological remains, potential for remains associated with medieval activity in Curdworth and prehistoric remains on river terrace
8	Canal	Traverse the terrace of the River Tame 90m AOD at the south descending to 70m along the rest of the subzone	Mercia mudstone group. Glaciolacustrine deposits of clay and silt, glaciofluvial and river terrace deposits of sand and gravel	Canal.	Previously fieldscapes	No known archaeology. Built heritage remains associated with the canal. The construction of the canal would likely have destroyed buried archaeological remains
9	Arable fields on river terrace north of Curdworth	River terrace at 90m AOD	Mercia mudstone group. Glaciolacustrine deposits of clay and silt and glaciofluvial and deposits of sand and gravel	Agriculture, mainly arable	Fieldscape, large irregular fields	No known archaeological remains, potential for remains associated with medieval activity in Curdworth and prehistoric remains on river terrace
10	Arable fields on river terrace	Largely on terrace, slopes gently to the south	Mercia mudstone group. Glaciolacustrine deposits of clay and silt	Agriculture, mainly arable with refuse tip at the west.	Fieldscape, large rectilinear and very large post war fields.	Ring ditch and linear features identified at the south of the subzone. Dunton Hall located at the centre with possible remains of medieval charcoal working area close to the Hall. Cropmarks of a possible DMV north of Dunton hall and ridge and furrow close to Lea Marston.
11	Arable fields on river terrace	On first terrace of Tame at 80m AOD rising to 90m at the west	Mercia mudstone group. River terrace deposits of sand and gravel	Agriculture, mainly arable.	Fieldscape, large rectilinear and small paddocks and closes associated with Lea Marston	Part of Hams Hall park within the subzone. No other archaeological remains. Potential for prehistoric remains on river terrace
12	Lea Marston nucleated settlement	Level ground around 78m	Mercia mudstone group with river terrace deposits of sand and gravel	Settlement	Historic settlement and associated field systems	Lea Marston medieval settlement located within the sub zone. No know archaeological remains but ridge and furrow surrounding the area.

No	Name	Topography	Geology/soils	Modern land use	Historic landscape character (HLC)	Archaeology (from baseline)
13	Lea Marston golf course	Gentle slopes between 95 and 80m	Mercia mudstone group with glaciofluvial and deposits of sand and gravel at the southern end, no geology recorded for remainder of area	Recreation, housing and woodland	Prior to golf course the area was occupied by fieldscapes, small paddocks survive at the south	Ridge and furrow associated with Lea Marston recorded within the golf course, now destroyed. Potential for prehistoric remains on the terrace but disturbance may have been caused by the landscaping of the golf course
14	Arable fields between motorway and canal	Flat ground at 88m	Mercia mudstone group. Glaciolacustrine deposits of clay and silt	Agriculture, arable.	Fieldscape, large rectilinear fields	No known archaeology, area possibly disturbed during construction of canal and motorway.
15	Arable fields on river terrace	River terrace which slopes gently towards River Tame to the east and northeast, 85m-65m	Mercia mudstone group with river terrace deposits of sand and gravel, with pockets of alluvium along stream courses. Glaciofluvial and deposits of sand and gravel at the southern end	Agriculture, mostly arable. Some woodland and housing.	Fieldscapes of very large post war fields and large irregular fields with areas of woodland settlement and industry	Scheduled moated site and possible associated cropmarks features. Other undated cropmarks at the northern end of the subzone. Potential for prehistoric and Romano-British remains, findspots of roman remains within the sub zone.
16	Arable fields between motorway and canal	Flat ground at 75m	Mercia mudstone group with river terrace deposits of sand and gravel and head deposits of clay silt sand and gravel	Agriculture, mix of arable and pasture, with some structures	Fieldscape	Potential for disturbance from construction of motorway and canal. No known archaeological remains within the subzone
17	Pasture north of Lea Marston	Elevated hill at 84m descending to 70m at edges	Mercia mudstone group with head deposits of clay silt sand and gravel at the southwest	Pasture fields and some settlement and scrubland	Fieldscapes, small paddocks and closes and very large post war fields	No known archaeology, located close to Lea Marston medieval settlement, high point overlooking river, potential for prehistoric remains
18	Quarry north of Lea Marston	Slightly sloped site between 78-75m	Mercia mudstone group	Industrial	Formerly fieldscape	Quarrying resulting in likely removal of archaeological remains
19	Arable fields on river terrace	Flat ground at west, sloping gently eastwards towards River Tame, 80-72m	Mercia mudstone group with pocket of alluvium at very north	Arable fields	Fieldscapes, very large post war fields and planned enclosure	Ridge and furrow at northeast corner, potential for prehistoric remains on terrace overlooking River Tame

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No	Name	Topography	Geology/soils	Modern land use	Historic landscape character (HLC)	Archaeology (from baseline)
20	Bodmoor Heath nucleated settlement	Flat ground at 70m	Mercia mudstone group with river terrace deposits of sand and gravel	Nucleated settlement	Historic settlement with small rectilinear fields	Ridge and furrow identified within the subzone as well as cropmark linear features. Historic features associated with the canal also identified as well as a post-medieval smithy
21	Arable fields north of Bodmoor Heath	Flat area 67m	Mercia mudstone group with river terrace deposits of sand and gravel	Agriculture, mainly arable with some scrubland	Fieldscape, large rectilinear fields	Earthworks adjacent to Birmingham-Fazeley canal located within the subzone, potential for prehistoric and historic remains on river terrace
22	Area of disturbance	Uneven ground surface due to previous disturbance	Mercia mudstone group	Mixture of woodland, pasture, recreation and ponds/lakes	Previously part of Middleton Hall Park, part of gravel extraction works during 20th century	Undated linear features and enclosures at the north and south, prehistoric burnt mound. Remains would have been removed by gravel extraction.
23	The Belfry golf course	On terrace 70-74m with small stream	Mercia mudstone group with river terrace deposits of sand and gravel	Golf course	Previously large irregular fields	Ridge and furrow identified within subzone, no other archaeological remains recorded. Survival of potential remains may be effected by landscaping of golf course
24	Arable fields surrounding Hunts Green	Gently slope from 78m at Hunts Green to 74m at eastern edge of subzone	Mercia mudstone group with river terrace deposits of sand and gravel in northern half	Agriculture, mainly arable with some housing	Fieldscape, regular planned enclosure with some paddocks and closes	Mesolithic finds from the surrounding area, post-medieval brickworks within the subzone.
25	Pasture south of Hunts Green	Flat ground on terrace at 80m	Mercia mudstone group	Agriculture, mainly pasture, some arable.	Fieldscape, mix of large irregular and small rectilinear paddocks and closes	No known archaeology. Potential for Mesolithic finds as some found in the surrounding area. Located around Hunts Green which has medieval origins
26	Arable fields surrounding Hunts Green	Flat ground on terrace at 80m	Mercia mudstone group	Agriculture, mainly arable	Fieldscape, mix of very large post-war fields and small irregular fields associated with Hunts Green	No known archaeology. Potential for Mesolithic finds as some found in the surrounding area. Located around Hunts Green which has medieval origins

No	Name	Topography	Geology/soils	Modern land use	Historic landscape character (HLC)	Archaeology (from baseline)
27	Hunts Green nucleated settlement	Gentle slope north to south, 84-80m	Mercia mudstone group	Nucleated settlement	Farms and associated small fields	Ridge and furrow at the north end of the subzone. Mesolithic finds from surrounding area
28	Langley Brook valley	Valley of Langley Brook, Brook at 75m, valley top at 85m	Mercia mudstone group With river terrace deposits of sand and gravel and alluvium of clay, silt, sand and gravel along the Brook	Agricultural, mostly arable with some areas of woodland and settlement	Dominated by very large post war fields with some large irregular fields and some small fields associated with Middleton	Prehistoric find spots within the subzone, potential for further prehistoric remains as location next to Brook is suitable. Medieval remains associated with original settlement of Middleton village and Middleton Park also possible.
29	Middleton nucleated settlement	Slopes west to east 90-85m	Mercia mudstone group With river terrace deposits of sand and gravel	Settlement	Historic core of Middleton and associated field systems	Palaeolithic stone axe found within the subzone, potential for prehistoric remains due to topographical location. Medieval activity associated with the establishment of the village and its later association with Middleton Hall. Post-medieval ironworks within the area.
30	Arable fields between two Brooks	Located on terrace and slope from 90-75m	Mercia mudstone group With river terrace deposits of sand and gravel	Agriculture, arable fields	Fieldsapes, very large post-war fields	Roman findspots within the subzone, also potential for prehistoric remains due to topographic location. Post-medieval iron works located in the general area, exact location not known.
31	Gallow Brook and valley	Brook and associated valley on river terrace, 95-80m	Mercia mudstone group With river terrace deposits of sand and gravel and alluvium along the brook	Agriculture, arable fields	Fieldsapes, very large post-war fields	Post-medieval iron works located in the general area, exact location not known. No other archaeological remains known, potential for prehistoric remains due to topographic location
32	Arable fields north of Gallow Brook	Flat terrace at 100m	Mercia mudstone group With river terrace deposits of sand and gravel	Agriculture, arable fields	Fieldsapes, very large post-war fields	No archaeological remains known, potential for prehistoric remains due to topographic location

8 Analysis and research potential

8.1 Analysis of understanding

- 8.1.1 Modern developments and disturbances have been identified at five sub-zones (Nos. 1, 3, 8, 18 and 22) which considerably reduce the potential for archaeological remains through their previous truncation and removal. These sub-zones include infrastructure such as the M42 (sub-zone 3) and gravel extraction areas (sub-zones 18 and 22) which, although located in areas which otherwise have archaeological potential, will have destroyed any archaeological remains during their construction and operation. There is also limited potential for recovery of archaeological remains at Lea Marston golf course (sub-zone 13) and the Belfry golf course (sub-zone 23). Although the level of disturbance caused by the construction and landscaping associated with the golf courses is currently unknown, ridge and furrow from sub-zone 13 is likely to have been destroyed.
- 8.1.2 Several river and stream valleys are located throughout the CFA, from the River Tame at the southern end (sub-zones 2 and 4) to the small valleys of the Langley Brook (sub-zone 28) and Gallows Brook (sub-zone 31) at the northern end. The river and stream valleys all contain alluvium which has the potential to mask archaeological remains under consecutive layers of clay and silt and may also have potential to preserve palaeo-environmental remains in waterlogged conditions. The gravels associated with these rivers and streams may contain early prehistoric remains. Sub-zones 2 and 4 along the River Tame are largely characterised by agricultural fields with existing infrastructure corridors traversing the sub-zones. While no archaeological remains are known from these sub-zones there is potential for activity from the prehistoric to the medieval and post-medieval periods in the surrounding landscape, indicated by cropmarks of possible prehistoric enclosures and the medieval settlement of Curdworth.
- 8.1.3 The River Tame would have been utilised for social and economic purposes throughout prehistory and history. Therefore there is a moderate potential for encountering archaeological remains within these sub-zones. As with the River Tame, Langley Brook (sub-zone 28) and Gallows Brook (sub-zone 31) would have been of economic value throughout history and archaeological remains, including prehistoric finds and post-medieval industrial remains are known within and surrounding both sub-zones. Both sub-zones are currently occupied by agricultural land, mostly arable, resulting from the amalgamation of smaller fields in the post-war period. These sub-zones have little previous disturbance beyond that caused by historic and modern ploughing and there is a moderate potential to recover archaeological remains, particularly of prehistoric and post-medieval date.
- 8.1.4 The over-riding character of modern land use within the CFA is arable agricultural and these make up the largest group of sub-zones (nos. 7, 9-11, 14-16, 19, 21, 24, 26, 30, 32). Sub-zones 7 and 9 are both located on clay and silt deposits at approximately 90m AOD. No archaeological sites are known from either sub-zone. However, given the lack of previous disturbance there is potential for remains to be encountered. Both are located just north of the medieval settlement of Curdworth and could have been utilised for agricultural purposes at this time. To the east is sub-zone 10, which is

located across clay and silt deposits on a peak in the landscape, at 100m AOD. Currently occupied by large late 20th century fields, this sub-zone contains a possible ring ditch and linear features which have been identified from aerial photographs. The topographical location of the sub-zone also indicates a high potential for further prehistoric archaeological remains to be encountered. Other assets within the sub-zone include a possible medieval charcoal production site, indicating medieval activity in the area which may be associated with the settlement of Curdworth to the west. There is also moderate potential for prehistoric remains within sub-zone 11 due to its proximity to the known assets within sub-zone 10 and its topographical location close to the River Tame.

- 8.1.5 Sub-zones 14 and 16 are located between the M42 and the Birmingham to Fazeley Canal, while both are largely occupied by arable fields, previous disturbance from the construction of the motorway was noted on aerial photographs and the potential for recovering archaeological remains from these areas is considered to be low.
- 8.1.6 Sub-Zone 15 covers a large area of arable land to the northwest of the Birmingham to Fazeley Canal, on the river terraces of the River Tame, which slope from 85m to 65m towards the river to the east. River terrace deposits of sand and gravel dominate this sub-zone, while post-war arable fields occupy much of the sub-zone some pockets of woodland and dispersed settlement are located here also.
- 8.1.7 Archaeological remains within this sub-zone are numerous and include a scheduled moated site and possible associated linear features identified from aerial photographs, therefore there is a high potential for archaeological remains dating to the medieval period within the sub-zone. Isolated finds dating from the prehistoric to the post-medieval period and undated cropmarks have also been recorded within the sub-zone indicating a moderate potential for remains dating to the prehistoric period to be located within the sub-zone.
- 8.1.8 Sub-zone 19, located to the west of the M42 on the river terrace, contains ridge and furrow at its northeast corner. There is moderate potential for encountering further possible medieval or post-medieval evidence within the sub-zone.
- 8.1.9 Sub-zone 24 and 26, located on sand and gravel deposits at approximately 78m AOD, have moderate potential for medieval remains due to their location surrounding Hunts Green, with ridge and furrow recorded within sub-zone 26. Currently occupied by post-war fields and planned enclosure, these sub-zones are also located close to finds of Mesolithic date therefore there is also moderate potential for remains of prehistoric date to be recovered. To the north of Middleton are two further sub-zones, 30 and 32, characterised by arable fields. Both are located on terraces and occupied by large post-war fields to the north and south of Gallows Brook. Roman finds have been located within sub-zone 30 and there is moderate potential for archaeological remains to be located within these areas.
- 8.1.10 Three sub-zones (nos. 5, 17 and 25) are characterised as pasture fields, all located close to small settlements. Sub-zone 5, to the east of Curdworth, is located on deposits of sand and gravel and although no archaeological remains have been located within this sub-zone there is moderate potential for archaeological remains dating to the prehistoric and medieval periods. There is a similar level of potential at the other sub-zones (17 to the north of Lea Marston and 25 south of Hunts Green).

Sub-zone 17 is located on a high point over-looking the River Tame while Mesolithic finds have been located close to sub-zone 25 at Hunts Green.

- 8.1.11 Five nucleated settlements are located within the Study Area (sub-zones 6, 12, 20, 27 and 29). All have a high potential for remains dating to the medieval and post-medieval periods as all were established during these periods. A moated site and the site of a manor house are recorded at Curdworth (sub-zone 6) while ridge and furrow is recorded at Lea Marston (sub-zone 12), Body Moor Heath (sub-zone 20), Hunts Green (sub-zone 27) and Middleton (sub-zone 29). There is moderate potential for prehistoric remains to be recovered from sub-zone 29 as a Palaeolithic axe has been found here and the sub-zone is located on river terrace with further prehistoric remains known from the surrounding area.
- 8.1.12 A review of baseline data has shown that there is a complete lack of palaeo-environmental evidence within the Study Area and a general lack of data from the surrounding landscape. There are several streams and one river (sub-zones 2, 4, 28, 31) within the Study Area which have the potential to preserve palaeo-environmental evidence.

8.2 Research Potential and Priorities

- 8.2.1 An archaeological Research Framework for the West Midlands⁷⁹ provides an introduction to key themes of research in the region by period. Reflecting the potential of the land required for the Proposed Scheme in this CFA, and drawing on the general themes identified in the published research framework, the following questions could provide the focus for investigation carried out in this study area in terms of period based and multi-period based landscape research:

- Can waterlogged deposits within the study area provide evidence of the environment from the prehistoric to the medieval periods, particularly associated with the Tame?
- What can artefact concentrations from varying soil types, tell us about exploitation of the landscape in the prehistoric periods?
- How does soil chemistry in the study area affect the preservation of archaeological remains and how has that influenced our understanding of human activity in the Palaeolithic period?
- Is aerial photography a reliable indicator of presence or absence of sites on the geologies of the study area?
- Through the recovery of environmental evidence, can any light be shed on the Mesolithic-Neolithic transition in the region and can areas of Mesolithic activity shed light on Early Neolithic activity?
- does a stray Lower Palaeolithic hand axe recorded from Middleton indicate the potential for further evidence of human occupation in the study area at this date? To what extent are archaeological deposits of the Palaeolithic period identifiable within terrace gravels of the River Tame?

⁷⁹ Watt, S., ed. (2011), *The Archaeology of the west midlands: a framework for research*. Oxford: Oxbow Books

- Neolithic and Bronze Age monuments appear to be concentrated to the north at the Tame/Trent confluence in Staffordshire and in the Avon Valley in south Warwickshire⁸⁰. Were there funerary and ceremonial monuments such as barrows or henges within the study area, which have been ploughed out or does the evidence indicate a lack of activity or different patterns of activity in these periods in the study area?
- Does the small concentration of Bronze Age finds and sites, including a burnt mound, surrounding Middleton indicate sustained settlement activity? What is the relationship between isolated metalwork deposits, burnt mounds and activity in the surrounding landscape?
- Is there any evidence for enclosed settlement or landscape division within the study area in the Late Bronze Age or Iron Age?
- What was the nature Iron Age and Roman settlement activity in the study area, which is hinted at by known features to the south at Coleshill?
- Can evidence for early medieval settlement or burials be identified at known settlements or cemeteries of a later date?
- Can differences in status and phases of development be learned from the medieval moated sites in the study area and what is the extent and form of the possible deserted medieval settlement, north of Curdworth?

⁸⁰ Garwood 2011, 49-57.

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